

## The Man of Principle, and the Principle of Man.

Two gentlemen met in our streets the other day; both men of liberal education, both politicians, and attached to the federal party; both exemplars in their department and Christians by profession; but one is an office-holder, and the other is not. A conversation ensued.

**Office-holder.**—Well, John, the political campaign is opening with fine prospects for us. We shall thrash the locos awfully next election!

**John.**—That is capital news; but how are we to do it?

**Office-holder.**—Why, with Gen. Taylor for our candidate, we can overwhelm them. As Judge Dayton said, we can sink their ship so deep that not a bubble will rise to tell the story of their wreck.

**John.**—Well, I like the wrecking part of your prophecy very well; but I must confess I have some apprehensions that the rock will be as disastrous to us as to our opponents. What are the political opinions of Gen. Taylor?

**Office-holder.**—Oh, he's an out-and-outed whig; goes all the whig measures end, voted, or meant to vote for Clay at the last election; and is every inch with us.

**John.**—Who tells you so?

**Office-holder.**—I saw it in at least a dozen whig papers.

**John.**—Any authority given for it—or was it merely the opinion of the editors?

**Office-holder.**—The opinion of one or more of the editors, I believe; they had copied from each other pretty much.

**John.**—That's no authority. Has any respectable man said or written, that of his own knowledge, he knows General Taylor to be a whig?

**Office-holder.**—Not that I know of.

**John.**—Have any of his family authorized any one to say he is a whig?

**Office-holder.**—Not that I have heard.

**John.**—To which party do his relations belong, so far as you have learned?

**Office-holder.**—It is said that his son-in-law, and his brother are democrats.

**John.**—Did the General support Jackson for the presidency?

**Office-holder.**—I understand he did.

**John.**—Which of the whig principles has General Taylor expressed favorably to, in any letter, speech, or conversation of his that you have ever read?

**Office-holder.**—Well, I can't say I have ever seen any expression of political principles from him.

**John.**—Well, is that saying a whig?

**Office-holder.**—(dryly.)—It was, you know, in 1840, "no principles for the public eye," was our motto.

**John.**—Yes, but I got enough in 1840, and I thought you had, too! Is not the General a large slaveholder, and a Southern cotton planter; and do you expect he will go for a repeal of the odious British tariff of 1846, and for the Wilcox proviso, to which we are pledged?

**Office-holder.**—There's no use of talking tariff, John, when the farmers are getting the present prices for their grain, and no slavery I can't say I care a great deal about it after all. You know Jack is a slaveholder, but we never stuck at that.

**John.**—No! you didn't, but a great many did; and Mr. Clay was beaten.

**Office-holder.**—Not on that ground, for Mr. Polk, who succeeded, was as much of a pro-slavery man as Mr. Clay.

**John.**—Just so, but Mr. Polk's party did not pretend to be otherwise. They expressly avowed their sympathy to the anti-slavery cause; were honest, though blinded; they succeeded; while too many of the whig party professed one thing and practised another; made promises to the car, and broke them to the hope; preached virtue and practised vice; in a word, were anything for office, and nothing for principle. Does Taylor hold this villainous war to be unjust?

**Office-holder.**—I s'pose so.

**John.**—Well, I s'pose he don't; for I believe the general to be a man of the corresponding kind, and his war department, and his proclamation to the Mexicans, upon invading that country which his military prowess has crimsoned, made desolate, and filled with wailing, all show that he justified the war in its fullest extent. Indeed, if he did not, I should think him the veriest murderer in existence. For while I hold to the justice of defensive war, I deny that in an unjust war, any man so believing, from the general down to the lowest private, can voluntarily become a human butcher and plead in sympathy to the anti-slavery cause.

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## Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Many of our exchange papers contain a letter from the Hon. GEORGE M. DALLAS, bearing date on the 10th of March last, to a gentleman of Philadelphia, on the subject of a canal across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (pronounced *Tee-wan-te-peh*), to connect the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and thus afford to our products an easy, safe, and expeditious transit to the islands of Oceania, the Western coast of America, and the now remote Indies. This Isthmus is only about 140 miles in width, and it is said that the Indians have crossed it in their canoes; during the rainy season—so trifling is the elevation of the land between the head waters of the rivers flowing into the two oceans. The work has, however, been deemed entirely impracticable, by every one who has given this isthmus even a partial examination, for more than 300 years past—Fernando Cortez having pointed out this route for a communication between the two oceans, as long ago as 1520.

The Vice President suggests that securing the right to improve this isthmus, by means of a ship canal, or a railroad, should be made a point in any negotiations which may be entered into by Mexico; and he thinks the importance of the matter to our country, cannot be too highly estimated; as the opening of a canal there would give to our commerce a most decided advantage over that of any country of Europe; and would probably vest in us the power to become the head of the commercial world, as we must necessarily be of the agricultural. This route seems also to be the most desirable one for our country, on account of its more immediate proximity to our soil—the Isthmus of Tehuantepec lying between the 16th and 19th degrees of north latitude, with the river Huasteca emptying into the Gulf of Mexico, and the Tehuantepec into the Pacific, which are said to take their rise within five leagues of each other, and to be entirely fitted for steamboat navigation at a trifling expense. The harbor at the mouth of the Huasteca is said to be the most safe and spacious in the Gulf of Mexico, and vessels of war of the largest size can enter it; while the Tehuantepec will admit at all times, from the Pacific, vessels drawing upwards of 20 feet of water.

The eligibility of this point for an improvement of the kind seems not to admit of a question; and the attention of our government has been wisely turned to the subject in the present crisis. Our pecuniary affairs were never in a more wholesome condition. The energies of our countrymen are exerted most successfully in every enterprise of civilized life. Our arms are most successfully exerted in maintaining the rights and the honor of our country; and an era of glory seems to be opening upon us as a people. With the natural resources of this vast country, the spirit of enterprise which seems to be infused by the atmosphere surrounding this portion of the globe, and the culture of all those sterling virtues which are cherished among us—with these alone, our course to national glory would be certain. But when to these we add a canal in the South, uniting the two mighty oceans, and a chain of inland communications from the Penobscot to the Columbia—placing us at once in possession of the trade of the world,—nothing that is presented to us by the pages of history in relation to the powerful and enlightened nations of past ages,—nothing which the most lively imagination can conceive, or the most glowing eloquence of language can describe, will convey an adequate idea of what we, as a nation, may yet become.

Mr. Dallas, in relation to a question respecting the constitutionality of a canal of inland communications, expresses himself as being fully satisfied on that point—not only from the uniform action of the government in making treaties with other powers; but from the express language of the constitution itself. The subject will no doubt be well considered by the People, and acted upon, in due time, by their representatives.—*Pittsburgh Post.*

**The Prussian Ladies and the Breaches.**  
(Translated for the *Argus* from the *Francs American*.)  
During the month of November last, there came to live at Konigsberg, Mdm. Louise Lehmann, the young and beautiful widow of a Captain of the Prussian Landwehr. Shortly after, the lady adopted all the manners of a man; she dressed, mounted her horse, visited the coffee and other public places of resort, played billiards, frequented the shooting galleries—in short, conducted herself as a regular man.

Madame Lehmann had visited several times the "Café de la Couronne," where she commonly mingled with the professors of the University. One of them, M. T., dean of the Theological faculty, feeling rather scandalized at this, requested the proprietor of the establishment not to receive M. Lehmann again. This person accordingly addressed a note to the lady, supplicating her not to renew her visits to the café, or she would frighten away these grave frequenters of his establishment.

The lady, offended at this, made every exertion to learn who the person was, who had provoked her exclusion from the café; and it was not long before she ascertained that it was the Professor M. T. Determining then to be revenged on him, she was not long in carrying her project into execution. One night, when the professor, who was an old man of some years, was sitting alone at a table in the café, quietly drinking from his glass, Madame Lehmann entered, dressed as a man, and bearing a pistol in her hand. She took her place at the same table with the old professor, and after resting quietly for a few minutes, suddenly she rose, and raising her whip, proceeded to give the venerable professor a most unmerciful lashing.

Madame Lehmann was immediately arrested, and conducted to prison. Three days after, the tribunal of the first instance, by a summary judgment, condemned her to six months' imprisonment, and the payment of a fine of 800 thalers. Immediately after, the Director of the Police of Konigsberg, signified to Madame L. his prohibition against her ever appearing in the costume of a man. From this prohibition, the lady appealed to the minister of police, who after having examined into the affair, decided that there were no laws, ordinances or interdictions, which prevented females from assuming the masculine habiliments.

Every woman in Prussia had the right to dress herself as a man; but in cases where, as in the case of Madame L., then the authorities had a right to interfere and prohibit it.

Thus have the women of Prussia had officially announced to them—what without doubt they were, the most of them, entirely ignorant of—that it is lawful for them to wear the breeches.

**The denouement of the Spanish marriage affair** is likely to present very different results than were anticipated by the King of the French. The Paris correspondent of the *Pa. Ledger* on the 1st of April writes thus: The Queen has just yielded to womanhood. France, or rather the diplomacy of Louis Philippe, has provided a husband for her of the school of Moderation. That is to say, she has accepted of the government of France the model government of Europe. But fate gave coal black moustaches and whiskers to General Llerano, and "the youthful, innocent Spanish Queen," as the French government papers style her, prefers those whiskers and those elegant moustaches of General Llerano to those of her insipid cousin, by the grace of diplomacy now her husband. The French minister, *Bresson*, perceiving this, has written to the Queen, and immediately inquires into the politics of the Royal favorite. He is discovered to be a *progressist*, in opposition to the queen consort, who is, to the entire satisfaction of France, not only "a *moderate*," but the French ambassador advises that he be sent to Pampluna, to command the citadel; or, in other words, to be imprisoned in it. The General refuses to accept the appointment, and hides himself in Madrid. He is, however, but an imprudent man, the queen, to revenge herself on the presumption of her constitutional minister, dissolves the cabinet and names another ministry, which is of the color, not of her favorite's moustaches, but of his politics.

So far this was a bloodless triumph, not achieved by British diplomacy opposed to that of France, but one of those unaccountable freaks of fate, which out of the oldest statesman, and Louis Philippe to boot. The Queen will, no doubt, seek protection from her cousin and Louis Philippe in the liberality of Lord Palmerston, and find it. When did ever woman appeal to British generosity in vain, except in the case of Queen Charlotte?

**WHITEWASHING.**—It is said that a pint of varnish, mixed with a bucket of whitewash will give it, in a great degree, the qualities of paint, and it will withstand all kinds of weather. As this is the season for whitewashing, a knowledge of this art may be of some use to our readers.—*N. O. Mercury.*

## FOREIGN NEWS.

**THE BRITANNIA ARRIVED AT BOSTON MAY 17TH,** having left Liverpool on the 4th. The Britannia brings about £200,000 in specie. At one time she had £300,000 on board, but £100,000 was withdrawn by a large American house in Liverpool.

The weather had been favorable to the growing crops, the prospects of which were generally good. The potato blight has reappeared in the neighborhood of Belfast.

The amount of flour and grain which the Americans have sent to the starving Irish has been the universal theme of eloquence in Ireland, and of warm and generous sympathy in England.

O'Connell is sinking daily; the accounts which come to hand, through the medium of the French papers, show that his earthly career is drawing to a close.

Sir Walter Scott, baronet, son of the "great ingram," is